

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.
JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

All business or news letter and telegraphic
despatches must be addressed New York
Herald.

THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the
year. Four cents per copy. Annual subscription
price \$12.

VOLUME XXXIV. No. 5
AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

PIKE'S OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth and
Sixth streets.—LA PRIMA DONNA.

FRANCIS THEATRE, Fourteenth street and Sixth
avenue.—GENIEVE DE BRABANT.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—HUMPTY DUMPTY.
WITH NEW FEATERS.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—THE EMERALD
KING.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway.—THE FIELD OF
THE CLOTH OF GOLD.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 12th street.—
MORRIS.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—AFTER DARK; OR, LON-
DON BY NIGHT.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—FIGHTING BROTHERS OF
ROM.—VALENTINE AND ORSON.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND THEATRE, Thirtieth street and
Broadway.—Afternoon and evening performance.

THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—LES FOLLIES-
FOLLES REVEL.—WOODS, JR.

UNION LEAGUE CLUB THEATRE, corner Madison
avenue and 5th street.—YANDERBILT'S READING.

STRAWN HALL, Fourteenth street.—OLD BULL'S
GRAND CONCERT.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—
BLOW US BLOW.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway.—ETHIO-
PIAN MINSTRELS, BURLINGAME.—GILBERT'S DE GRAY
MINSTRELS.—THE DUTCHMAN'S PROOF, JR.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 25 Broadway.—ETHIO-
PIAN MINSTRELS, BURLINGAME, SINGING, DANCING, JR.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th
street.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS, JR.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 301 Bowery.—COMIC
TALLER, NEGRO MINSTRELS, JR.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—EQUINESTRIAN
AND GYMNASIUM ENTERTAINMENT.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOLEY'S
MINSTRELS.—THE DUTCHMAN'S PROOF, JR.

HOOLEY'S (K. D.) OPERA HOUSE, Williamsburg.—
HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS.—PROGRESS OF AMERICA.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, January 5, 1869.

Monthly Subscriptions to the New York Herald.

We give notice to the public that hereafter
monthly subscriptions will be received for the
New York Herald. The subscription will be
one dollar a month. Many complaints have
been made from purchasers of the HERALD
outside of New York that the price charged
by newspaper dealers and vendors is too high,
varying from five to twenty-five cents a copy,
according to distance from the city. At even
a short distance ten cents a copy is charged.
In fact, there is no rule of charges by news-
men, who, taking advantage of the eager
demand for the HERALD, ask all sorts of
prices for it. To remedy this evil and to
accommodate the public, therefore, the price
will be one dollar a month—about the same
for country subscribers, at whatever distance,
as for those in the city. The postage being
only thirty-five cents a quarter, the cost con-
sequently to monthly subscribers in the country
will be little more than four cents a copy,
which is the retail price in New York city.
Monthly subscriptions will be received from
this date.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated January 4.
The Greek government has asked a postponement
of the Conference on the Eastern question until
the arrival of the Greek Minister.

Owing to the late amnesty proclamation of Presi-
dent Johnson a large number of ex-Confederates
are preparing to return to the United States.

The London Times of yesterday contains a letter
on the present political situation of France, and
says that the year ends with the most precarious
peace the world has ever seen.

The London press generally approve of the treaty
concluded between Mr. Burlingame and Lord Clarendon
relative to England and China.

The Chinese Ambassadors are to have an inter-
view with the French Foreign Minister to-morrow.

Africa.

Latest news received in London confirms the
reports of the safety of Dr. Livingston. He is near
the western confines of Zambiar and is making his
way for the sea coast, but his progress is some-
what impeded by the prevalence of war among the
native tribes.

Cuba.

Captain General Dulce arrived at Havana yester-
day and formally took possession of the government,
relieving Lerendy. Bishop Martinez, who was ban-
ished to Spain by Lerendy, returned with Dulce.
No news has been received recently from Com-
mandante Valmaseda. A skirmish is reported near Manzanillo,
in which the government troops were victorious.

Miscellaneous.

The republican members of the State Assembly in
cancous yesterday nominated Truman C. Younglove
for Speaker, and the democratic members nomi-
nated William Hittman, the Speaker of the last
session.

Among the names mentioned in Washington in
connection with General Grant's Cabinet is that of
Charles Macalister, of Philadelphia, for the Treasury.
Mr. Macalister is a gentleman of the old school and
a warm personal friend of the President elect.

It is reliably stated in Washington that efforts are
being made to postpone the enforcement of the
revenue law passed at the last session of Congress
so far as it relates to the withdrawal of spirits and
the payment of tax thereon from class B warehouses
on the 1st of April next.

The lobbyist at Washington have recently inaugu-
rated a scheme which promises to pay them well,
and for their services have already realized a very
respectable sum. The English advocates of the
Canadian reciprocity treaty are anxious to have the
old policy revived, and are paying handsomely to
those who aid their scheme, having advanced to
the lobby ring the sum of \$15,000 in gold, and are
ready with another installment as soon as it is needed
to influence Congress.

L. F. Rolfe, a claim agent of Washington city, was
yesterday arrested for an alleged attempt to defraud
the government by presenting claims to the Quar-
termaster General's office which had been already paid.
Rumor has it that Mr. De Bille, the Danish Minis-
ter, will soon lead to the altar a young and charming
lady of New Jersey.

The Boston investigation case was renewed be-
fore the House Committee in Washington yesterday.
It is understood that the evidence thus far is of a

mixed and incongruous character, leading to no
definite conclusion on which to predicate charges of
impeachment.

General Gordon Granger, commanding in Mem-
phis, has sent Captain Fiske, with 250 infantry, to
Arkansas to investigate the reported militia outrages
in that State. Captain Fiske reports that he cannot
trace the printed accounts of the outrages to any
reliable source.

The negro troubles near Savannah have quieted
down. The military supported the Sheriff in the ex-
ecution of his warrants and fourteen of the blacks
surrendered themselves without any demonstration.

The Louisiana Legislature assembled yesterday
and received Governor Warmoth's message.

The Peruvian iron-clads at New Orleans are ready
for sea and will sail for the Pacific coast with their
convoys whenever the weather permits.

The argument on the appeal for a new trial of
Whalen, convicted of the murder of D'Arcy Moten, was
heard in the Court of Errors in Toronto, Canada,
yesterday. A decision will be rendered on the 22d
inst.

Gu. Holmes, a mulatto, was hanged in Tarboro,
N. C., on New Year's Day for the murder of Matthew
King, a negro, in May, 1867. He confessed to the
crime before he died. While on the scaffold the
negro population, which was out in force, scaled the
fence built around it in accordance with the law
directing that executions should be conducted pri-
vately, and sang hymns and prayed with the con-
demned until he had to request them to cease. He
was unable to stand when the knot was adjusted, and
the sheriff and a negro held him up until the drop
fell.

The City.

The Boards of Aldermen and Assistant Aldermen
were organized yesterday. Mr. Coman was re-
elected President of the Board of Aldermen and
Mr. Monaghan President of the lower Board. Mayor
Hall took possession of his office and issued his first
general order, which prescribes that the title
"Honorable" shall not be used in connection with
his name or office. Judge Michael Connolly also
took possession of the Register's office.

The report of Comptroller Connolly forwarded to
the Common Council shows the estimated amount
required to carry on the city government during the
year, for interest on the city debt and for the re-
demption of the city debt to be in the aggregate
\$12,157,282.

Samuel B. Garvin, the new District Attorney, was
formally presented in the Supreme Court yesterday
by his predecessor, Mayor Hall, and the oath of office
was administered to him by Judge Cardozo.

An explosion of two torpedoes occurred in the
lower bay on Sunday, about noon, by which four
persons were instantly killed and others were
wounded. One of the torpedoes was placed under
the wreck of the steamer Scotland, about twenty-
eight feet below the surface of the water, and the
boats containing Captain Churchill, the electrician,
and other persons connected with the Submarine
Company moved off about 150 feet, only half the
distance usually allowed. The torpedo was then ex-
ploded by the galvanic battery, operated by Captain
Churchill, and the force of it lifted the boats six feet
out of water. Another torpedo in one of the boats
was also exploded by the concussion, and the boat
in which it lay was torn completely to atoms. Cap-
tain Churchill and two men were blown to pieces
and another one had his brains knocked out. The
officers of the Submarine Company are engaged in
investigating the affair.

The Underground Railroad Company, incorporated
by the last Legislature, have returned their charter
and given up the job for the present. The condi-
tions contained in the act of incorporation were so
stringent that men of capital did not dare to invest
in the enterprise, although the engineering difficul-
ties are found to be much less than would generally
be supposed. The company will ask an amendment
of the act and an extension of time for commencing
operations.

The police captains of this city and Brooklyn and
one sergeant from each precinct assembled at police
headquarters yesterday to consider the question of
asking an increase of salary from the Legislature.
An executive committee to take action in the matter
and make arrangements was appointed, and the meet-
ing adjourned for one week.

Colonel Edmunds Clark, for the Seventh regiment,
declines to take part in the proposed competitive
drill for a grison and the honor of being the best
drilled regiment in the First division. He claims
that competitive drills are injurious to organiza-
tions and are never satisfactory. At the same time
the regiment does not avow or disavow its claim to
be considered the best drilled regiment in the di-
vision.

The sentence of Garnis C. Baker, convicted of
complicity in the Tradesmen's Bank defalcation, has
been postponed until the last day of the January
term of the United States Circuit Court.

The Stevenson cotton case, in the same court, was
postponed yesterday until the Blaisdell case is dis-
posed of.

Isaac C. Fray, who sues Henry Palmer to recover
\$150 for literary services in compiling a life of Rus-
sell for the defendant, was yesterday awarded \$149
by the jury.

The stock market yesterday was heavy and droop-
ing at the close on account of unexpected continued
stringency in money and a decline of seven per cent
in New York Central. Gold was dull between the
figures 135 and 135 1/2.

Beef cattle yesterday were in fair demand, and
being in small supply prices were firm at the follow-
ing quotations:—Prime and extra, 17c. a lb.; fair to
good, 16 1/2c. a lb.; and inferior to ordinary, 15c. a lb.
The offerings were 604 head at Communipaw, 550
at One Hundredth street and 130 at Hudson City.
Milch cows—Common were dull but steady, while
good were in fair request and firm. We quote:—
Prime and extra, \$90 a \$120 each; fair to good, \$75 a
\$85; common, \$60 a \$70; inferior, \$45 a \$55. Total
calves were freely sought after at last week's prices.
10c. a lb.; prime and extra, 12c. a lb.; common to good,
10 1/2c. a lb.; inferior, 9c. a lb. Sheep were in light
supply and being in good demand prices were firm
at 13 1/2c. a lb. for extra, 12c. a lb. for prime, 11 1/2c.
a lb. for common to good, and 10 1/2c. a lb. for in-
ferior. Swine were dull owing to the light arrivals;
prices were firm at 10c. a lb.

Presidential Arrivals in the City.

Lord Craven, of England; Senator T. A. Hendricks,
of Indiana; Judge G. F. Comstock, of Syracuse;
Congressman T. M. Pomroy, of New York; and E. C.
Bonchard, Chief of the Cherokee Nation, are at the
St. Nicholas Hotel.

Senator A. Conkling, of New York; J. M. Thayer,
of Washington; Congressman George S. Boutwell, of
Massachusetts; Dr. S. L. Cook, of Maryland, and A. S.
Upshur, of New York, are at the Astor House.

S. G. Head, of Oregon; Dr. D. S. Evans and George
C. Gorham, of Washington; C. C. Washburne and A. H.
Harris, of California, and T. C. Owens, of Eng-
land, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

General J. A. Austin, Colonel M. F. M. Latham
and Major M. F. McMahon, of Tennessee, and Cap-
tain W. H. Fisher, of Texas, are at the Marlborough
Hotel.

Colonel M. Willard, of Delaware, is at the St. Julien
Hotel.

M. Gomez, Minister of Honduras and Nicaragua,
and Dr. Carl Woernan, Jr., of Hamburg, Germany,
are at the Clarendon Hotel.

Captain Ed. Sherman, of the United States Army,
and E. B. Ringham, of Ohio, are at the St. Charles
Hotel.

ANOTHER SOP FOR THE LAWYERS.—Wit-
nesses have been summoned again before the
Grand Jury with a view to obtaining another
indictment against John H. Surratt. It is said
that the former trial of Surratt and the prepara-
tions for a second one cost the government
about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.
The public loss interest in this case when it
was last dismissed, and the Washington
lawyers revive it, perhaps, only because there
is another sop in it for them. They resemble
those New York pettifoggers who daily study
the newspapers for no other purpose than to
find a chance for either concocting or com-
pounding a libel suit or a divorce suit. Either
suits them so long as they can turn a penny by
the operation.

Railroad Jobs and Jobbers in Congress—
A Stupendous Budget of Spoils and
Plunder.

The corruptions which have grown up in the
national government from the general
demoralizations of our late civil war are fear-
ful to contemplate. One hundred millions a
year lost to the Treasury from the spoliation of
the whiskey rings "beats out of sight" any-
thing in the line of whiskey frauds under
any other government on the face of the
globe; but on a corresponding scale with
their field of operations the Indian rings, the
Post Office and Interior Department rings, the
tobacco rings, the frontier smuggling rings
and various other rings, insiders and out-
siders, jobbers, contractors, government offi-
cials and private speculators, are pretty well
up to the percentage of the enormous steal-
ings of the whiskey rings. The latest develop-
ments, however, show that in the grandeur
and number of their schemes of spoils and
plunder the Congressional rings of railroad
jobbers throw into the shade all the other
rings of the lengthy catalogue of confederate
Treasury robbers.

A Washington correspondent who has been
looking into the business reports that one
hundred and fifty-nine railroad bills and resolu-
tions have been introduced in the Fortieth
Congress (the term of which expires on the 4th
March next, with that of President John-
son), and that twice as many more are in
preparation in the lobby; that one thousand
millions of acres of the public lands and two
hundred millions in United States bonds would
not supply the demands of these cormorants.

In other words, their stupendous budget of
railway jobs would require sops and subsidies
in lands and bonds which, reduced to a money
valuation, swell up to the magnificent figure
of half the national debt.

Among the jobs of this schedule is the
Atchison and Pike's Peak Railroad Company,
or Union Pacific Central Branch, which, after
having received government sops to the extent
of six millions, puts in for seven millions more.
Next comes the Denver Pacific Railway and
Telegraph Company, which, having feathered
its nest to the figure of thirty-two millions,
puts in for a little more; and this company is
reported to be a mere gang of speculators,
"without any known legal organization what-
ever"—a lot of mythical John Does and Rich-
ard Roes, who cannot be found when called
for. Next we have the Leavenworth, Pawnee
and Western Railroad Company, now known
as the Union Pacific, Eastern Division, char-
tered by the Kansas Territorial Legislature
in 1855, subsidized by Delaware Indian re-
serve lands in 1861, and then in 1862, by a
rider on the Pacific Railroad law, granted six-
teen thousand dollars per mile in United States
bonds and every alternate section of land,
within certain limits, on each side of the road,
and the privilege of a second mortgage. This
is cutting it pretty fat. But it further appears
that a clique of seceders from the old company
illegally formed a new company, and, having
by force of arms taken possession of the road,
are pocketing the spoils which legally belong
to the old company. All this, too, with the
consent of the President, the Secretary of the
Treasury and Congress. Are they all birds of
a feather, that they thus flock together?

From another source we learn that some
half dozen other Pacific branch or main stem
railroads, Northern and Southern, are on the
anvil, involving lands and bonds by tens and
hundreds of millions; that of all these
schemes fully three-fourths come from the
republicans in both houses; that Senator
Pomeroy, of Kansas, has seven of these jobs
on the docket; Senator Ramsey, of Min-
nesota, four; Senator Conness, of California,
five, and Senator Harlan, of Iowa, four.

Senator Pomeroy, however, distances all com-
petitors in the number and extent of his jobs;
for, as it appears, they include a line from
Kansas to Mexico, three bills for roads from
Fort Scott to Santa Fe, in Texas, a South
Carolina line through the Sea Island cotton
section, two or three lines from the Mississippi
river through to Texas, and "a little private
Atchison Pacific, one of the nicest and fastest
speculations ever worked through."

Is not this a magnificent budget, and is not
the audacity of these railroad jobs and jobbers
positively sublime? Some of these schemes
are in successful operation, but many of them
are still in the caterpillar, or chrysalis, state,
and there is a prospect that very few of this
class will come out as the full blown butterfly.

The parties concerned have only two months
remaining of this Congress for their work, and
these two months must necessarily be largely
taken up with the appropriation bills, negro
suffrage, reconstruction, &c. Then we depend
upon Mr. E. B. Washburne, of the House, the
right hand man of General Grant, to head off
these bands of highway robbers until Grant
himself grapples them. We have very little
confidence in the capacity or the disposition of
President Johnson to retrench or reform exist-
ing abuses; for, with all his professions, he has
done precious little, and has not tried to do
much, in retrenchment or reform. In fact, he
has been so much absorbed with his "policy,"
his chop logic on the constitution, that he has
permitted the Treasury to run to waste like a
barrel of whiskey turned over on its side and
running out from bung holes and spigots.

We are thus compelled to rely upon the vigi-
lant Washburne to hold these Treasury sharks
at bay until General Grant comes to the rescue
of the Treasury and the taxpayers, and the
country at large.

The New Mayor and His Message.

Osakey Hall, our new Mayor, begins his
administration like a man who means to do
something. The usage so far with the Mayor
has been to have his message to the Common
Council already cut and dried for delivery the
first thing after his New Year's reception, with
any quantity of statistics of receipts and ex-
penditures, and explanations and recommen-
dations concerning this and that department,
all signifying nothing but a steady enlarge-
ment of our city taxes and the pickings of the
rings and the perquisites of all the officials
concerned. Mayor Hall, we are inclined to
think, is going to turn over a new leaf. He
did not deliver his message to the two Boards
yesterday, because, as we understand, he was
not prepared to sum up his case until he had
looked over the testimony—that is, he wanted
to examine carefully the reports from the
several departments before submitting his
opinions in reference to their operations during
the past year. This is a good beginning and

a good sign. We hope it will prove to be a
foreshadowing of a general line of action on
his part looking to something broader and
higher in his execution of the duties of the
Mayor than the mere signing of the bills and
drafts upon the treasury of our Corporation
rings. In this view we are in no hurry for the
Mayor's message. Let him take his time, but
let him remember that we consent to this delay
only because we expect a message that will
bear good fruit.

Libels and Libel Suits.

A Chicago paper some time ago published a
report of a police case in which a situation
fraudulent delicto was alleged against certain
parties. The latter brought suit for libel, and
the case has been brought to a close in a
verdict of seven thousand five hundred dollars
damages against the defendants. The editors
and proprietors of the paper showed that the
publication was made against their express
directions; that it appeared through the negli-
gence of the reporter and foreman of the office,
and that every retraction possible was made
after its publication. These pleas ought to
have had some effect upon a jury, and no
doubt they would had the paper in question
exhibited a little better taste in its manner of
reporting the trial. It was there motive was
shown, if not in the original publication. But
the whole thing shows that the law of libel is
wrong in many particulars. In some cases it is
too stringent, in others too lenient. The
proprietor of a newspaper should not in justice
and equity be held responsible for every line
that appears in his paper. He has to trust to
the vigilance and fidelity of subordinates; and
where it is clear no malice is shown, and, in
fact, where it is proven that an alleged libel-
ous report has appeared against his express
orders, it certainly seems that common sense
should exonerate him from blame. The Chi-
cago case, we see, is to be carried to a higher
court, and we suggest that the proprietors of
the paper allow it to be tested upon its merits
alone, without bringing extraneous influences
to bear one way or the other, right or wrong,
upon the judgment of the jury.

While on the subject of libels and libel suits
we may state that we understand a dozen or
more suits have been brought against those
Bohemians who have recently been busily
engaged in this city in accumulating the char-
acter of some of our most worthy grocers and
dealers. The developments on these trials
will be highly refreshing, and no doubt illu-
minate the entire tricks, lies, intrigues, back-
bitings, double dealings and the myriads of
other rascalities which have won for the
Albany lobby an unenviable notoriety all over
the country.

Mr. Opyke on Resumption of Specie
Payments.

We publish in another part of the paper
a letter from Mr. George Opyke, addressed to
Senator Conkling, on the question of
resuming specie payments. Mr. Opyke
takes a sensible view of the subject on the
whole, and gives a very interesting historical
and practical analysis of it. He comes to the
same conclusion we have—that "masterly
inactivity" is the true policy with regard
to resumption. We have advocated this
all along, and have shown that the
country will grow up to specie payments
in the natural course of things and through
the laws of trade if the currency be left as it
is, and that any other course must bring dis-
aster. We think he over-estimates the volume
of currency in actual circulation, as a large
portion of the greenbacks are locked up as a
reserve in the banks and remaining inactive in
the Treasury. But even with his statement of
seven hundred and forty-four millions of cir-
culation, he admits that we shall reach specie
payments in seven years by the natural growth
of population and commerce. He thinks it may
be in five years, and that without any shock
to trade, if the government should neither ex-
pand nor contract the currency. Still he argues
the government might contract the legal
tenders at the rate of ten millions a year with-
out injury to trade. This is a small amount,
but, after all, it would be best undoubtedly to
carry out fully the principle he lays down of
"masterly inactivity." We commend the sense-
able views of Mr. Opyke to the consideration
of Congress and the people.

Increase of Crime.

Crime, and particularly crime against the
person, as that of murders and bloody
assaults, seems to be an epidemic at times
and to rage like some fearful disease. Judg-
ing from the daily record of murders and
other dreadful crimes in the newspapers, we
appear to be in the midst of such an epidemic
now. Nor are these crimes committed only in
out-of-the-way places, where there is little
or no means of protection, but in this crowded
city, on our public streets and even at our
very doors in broad daylight. The murder of
a respectable and an inoffensive citizen, Mr.
[Name], at his own door, in the heart
of the city and centre of a vast moving popu-
lation, the other morning, is fresh in the
mind of every one. We hear a great deal of
Italian banditti, of Mexican bandits and of
highway robbers in remote country parts here
and elsewhere, but the streets of our great
cities have become more dangerous than the
mountain passes of Italy or the roads of
Mexico. The boldness of criminals here is
surprising. We have in New York a large
and an expensive police force, yet the most
daring and dreadful crimes are committed in
open day. This ought not to be. It is said
many of the police are employed in other
ways than in guarding the city and people—
as in performing duties for the various civil
departments and commissions. This is wrong.
They should be confined strictly to their legiti-
mate duty of protecting the public from crime
and violence. There is certainly a want of
efficiency in this respect now, and we earnestly
call the attention of the Police Commis-
sioners to the fact.

ABUSE OF THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

We are in receipt of a variety of communi-
cations complaining about the abuse of the
franking privilege. If Greeley will send over
a forebarrow he shall have them free of cost.

Naturalization Frauds—How to Prevent
Them.

A Congressional committee has been in
session in this city for the last fortnight investi-
gating the frauds alleged to have been com-
mitted at our last Presidential election. Its
sittings have been held with closed doors, so
that none of its proceedings have been made
public. Enough of them, however, is known
to authorize the statement that the inquiry has
turned almost exclusively on the point of the
fraudulent naturalization of foreigners; and
as that subject was thoroughly ventilated a
week or two prior to the election on the pre-
liminary examination of one Rosenberg, who
kept a naturalization mill in a lager beer saloon
in Centre street, the public is probably as
familiar with the question as are the members
of the select committee after hearing the
testimony of hundreds of witnesses.

It was in evidence in the Rosenberg case
that any number of certificates of naturaliza-
tion could be furnished on the briefest notice,
without the necessity of going through any
formalities before the courts, and without the
personal attendance or even the actual exis-
tence of the party who was to be nominally
admitted to participation in all the rights
and privileges of an American citizen. All
that was requisite was to furnish the obliging
agent with the names, real or fictitious, of the
Germans or Irishmen on whom citizenship was
to be conferred; and in a few hours after-
wards certificates of naturalization, with the
genuine seal of the court and the genuine
signature of its clerk, were forthcoming, at the
moderate charge of two dollars each for the first
hundred and a dollar and a half each for all
over that number. How the thing was accom-
plished was not proved; it could only be inferred;
and the inference was that it was done by means
of a wholesale system of personating appli-
cants and their witnesses, there being such a
rush of that sort of business in the courts
that there was hardly any difficulty in the mat-
ter. All this was published to the world in the
HERALD reports of the Rosenberg trial; and
we really do not see that the Congressional
committee can throw much further light on
the subject, unless, indeed, it may succeed in
implicating the judges or officers of the courts
in a guilty connivance with these frauds, which
is hardly probable.

There is but one practical way of putting an
end to them at once and forever, and that is
by abolishing the requirement of a five years'
residence, or any other term of residence, by
foreigners before they can be admitted to citi-
zenship. There is really no sense or reason in
that requirement. No one can sustain the pro-
position that the German or Irishman or
Frenchman who comes here is improved in
morals, in religion or in political science by
his having lived in New York, Boston, Phila-
delphia or Chicago for five years. In nine
cases out of ten the very contrary is the fact.
The poor emigrant is much more likely to have
all his good qualities spoiled than he is to get
rid of his bad ones; and the man who, on
landing in this country, is prepared to for-
swear his former allegiance and to take the oath
to support the constitution should be per-
mitted to do so, and should be thereupon in-
vested with the rights of citizenship.

The United States laws on that subject, which
are now, according to Judge Nelson's opinion
in the Rosenberg case, inapplicable to the
prevention or punishment of such frauds,
should be at once repealed and a statute en-
acted simplifying and facilitating naturaliza-
tion in the manner we have suggested. State
and municipal laws may then intervene, as
they do now, and require a certain term of
residence in the State, county or district as a
condition of voting. That would meet any
possible objection that might be made in re-
gard to the political power that could be exer-
cised by emigrant runners, boarding house
keepers and all such classes of people. Laws
can easily be framed to obviate all difficulty on
that score; but it seems they cannot be
framed so as to prevent naturalization frauds
under our present system. We therefore put
it seriously to this Congressional committee
whether it should not recommend, and to Con-
gress whether it should not immediately pass,
a law by which foreigners who desire to be-
come citizens of this country can do so at
once on the simple condition of residence.
We have absorbed all the negroes of the South
into this free community; is it worth while to
be extremely dainty in admitting to the same
equality the industrious, energetic and (by
comparison) highly intelligent men who leave
the countries of Europe to seek homes among
us? Let the committee return to Washington,
adopt our suggestion, and there will be no more
trouble about naturalization frauds.

Our Piers and Wharves—A Message to the
Common Council.

Mayor Hall, very wisely and properly as we
think, has declined to make any recommen-
dations to the Common Council in the shape of
an annual message until he shall have reviewed
and carefully examined the reports of the
several city departments, in order that he may
form an intelligent judgment as to what mea-
sures he may deem desirable to be brought be-
fore that body. In the absence of his ex-
pected communication we beg to call the atten-
tion of the honorable Aldermen and Assistant
Aldermen, in a newspaper message, to a sub-
ject which has heretofore received due consid-
eration from the press—to wit, the present
condition and future management of our piers
and wharves. Probably some of our city
fathers may have already learned that the
piers and wharves along our river fronts are,
with few exceptions, a mass of tumble down
ruins, a collection of rotten wooden
structures entirely incapable of supplying
the wants of our growing commerce
and unsafe for the shipping in the harbor.
They may have heard of other ports where
the docks are solid stone structures and where
safety and facility are afforded to vessels,
although the commerce is not nearly so great
or so important as that of New York. It is
just possible, also, that they may be aware of
the repeated attempts of jobbers and lobby-
men to get hold of our piers and wharves
under the pretence of improving their condi-
tion, but in reality for the purpose of preying
upon the commerce of the city and obtaining
possession of a valuable property for nothing.

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